

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Poppy was first used as a living memorial to the American war dead following the first world war, as veterans who returned home recalled the wild poppies which lined the devastated battlefields of France and Flanders; and,

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary's Poppy Program began spontaneously in 1919 as the 32nd Division in Milwaukee returned home, and the paper poppies decorating the coffee and doughnut booth were stripped from the booth by grateful Americans who left donations to benefit disabled veterans; and,

Whereas, Since 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary has been spearheading the sale of poppies all across the nation around Memorial Day, using the proceeds to benefit disabled American Veterans; and,

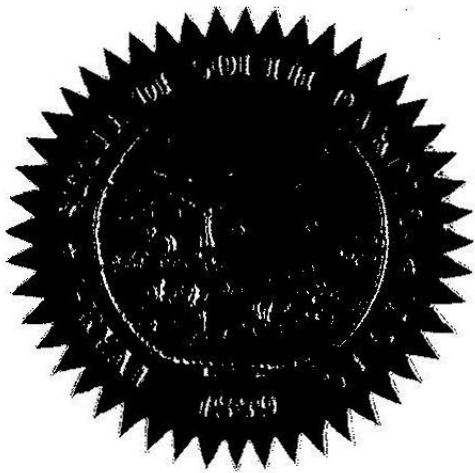
Whereas, The Poppy, the flower with a heart, will again be offered to the American public as we approach Memorial Day, and South Dakotans will, as they always have, be generous in their contributions to benefit disabled American veterans:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2004, as

POPPY DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizenry to recall the incredible sacrifices of all our veterans and to buy a poppy to signify our gratitude and appreciation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State